and female teachers in various schools in Delhi have increased during the last one year;

(b) if so, what is the total number of such cases reported so far;

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard and whether Government are considering to launch a Helpline to protect the interest of girl students and women teachers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) As per information received from Govt. of NCT of Delhi four cases of sexual harassment have come to their notice.

(c) and (d) The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has taken several steps in this regard. Such cases of sexual harassment are being monitored by senior officers of Directorate of Education. The Departmental Complaint Committees have been constituted at various levels to conduct inquiries in such cases promptly in respect of staff posted in schools under them. There is no proposal to launch Helpline in this regard.

NGOs assisting the ministry of HRD

2129. SHRI P. N. SIVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the help of NGOs is taken to make all programmes under the Ministry a success;

(b) if so, whether NGOs working for the past several years are treated as a new organisation every year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the criteria for selection of NGOs by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) The National Policy on Education (NPE) provides that Non-Government and Voluntary efforts including social activist groups will be encouraged, subject to proper management and financial assistance provided. At the same time, steps will be taken to prevent the establishment of institutions set up to commercialize education. The NGOs are provided grants on year to year basis and same NGOs can apply for new projects also. The NGO is sanctioned assistance under the

rules and regulations in this regard spelt out in each scheme. Generally, to be eligible for assistance, an organisation is required to be registered and normally be in existence for three years. Organisation should be non-profit making and non-communal and should have proper constitution/Memorandum and Articles of Association. Financial assistance is sanctioned to an NGO on the recommendation of a Grant-in-Aid Committee (GIAC) as set up under the provision of the scheme.

Gender Bias

2130. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of complaints of gender bias and harassment of women employees have been received in the recent past;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during last one year; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Government does not receive complaints directly as these are to be dealt by Complaints Committees formed in various Ministries/Departments. However a statement showing number of complaints received in the National Commission for Women (NCW) during the calendar year 2001 is enclosed. (*See* below) It has been informed by NCW that 173 complaints of harassment at workplace and 43 of sexual harassment at workplace were received.

(c) The Government has taken a number of initiatives to give effect to the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court, which have the force of law under Article 141 of the Constitution of India. These include:

- The Government have requested all the Central Ministries/Departments, Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, Universities/Institutions, Central Board of Secondary Education, All India Council of Technical Education to constitute complaints committees and ensure that the guidelines are implemented.
- A Central Committee headed by Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development has been constituted in the Department of Women and Child Development to ensure that the complaints committees are constituted and the guidelines are implemented by all concerned.
- Central Civil Service (Conduct) Rules have been amended to include sexual harassment as a prohibited conduct.